

May 22, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Crocker Creek Dam Removal Project Asti Ridge Road, Cloverdale

Sonoma County

On March 14, 2002 the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Sonoma County Water Agency requesting approval for disturbances to Crocker Creek associated with the removal of the Crocker Creek Dam and bank stabilization to improve fish passage and reduce sediment discharges to Crocker Creek.

The project consists of four work areas. Areas 1 and 2 include the removal of the breached dam and damaged spillways. The streambanks will also be recontoured and vegetated for stabilization. Area 3 includes recontouring of an erosional scarp upstream of the dam and realignment of the creek to reduce future erosion. Area 4 includes the removal of a failed bank stabilization project and restabilization using vegetation.

The access road leading to the project site crosses an ephemeral stream. Although the stream is expected to be dry, a culvert and clean gravel will be installed to provide access to the construction site. The fill and culvert will be removed and the pre-existing grade reestablished upon completion of the project.

Although no beneficial use replacement mitigation is proposed or needed for the dam removal project, the following measures will be incorporated in the project to reduce or eliminate potential impacts:

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to control erosion on the access road and disturbed streambanks.
- Construction will occur in the summer months while Crocker Creek is dry to reduce impacts to water quality.
- Vegetation removal will be the minimum required to construct the project.
- All debris and excavated materials will be removed from the creek channel and disposed of in a permitted manner.
- Equipment will be operated from outside the ordinary high water mark when possible.
- All disturbed vegetation will be replanted 5-1.

At this time the Regional Water Quality Control Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification Permit. In addition, the Regional Water Quality Control Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761 or by email at doug@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov.